

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving compression of data, comprising:  
arranging the data on a mixed format physical layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size;  
dividing the data on ~~[[a]]~~ the mixed format physical layout into the fixed-sized fields and the variable sized fields; and  
compressing the data of the variable sized fields and the fixed-sized fields.
2. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing sizes of the fixed-sized fields in a data dictionary;  
storing frequency of the data in the fixed-sized fields and the variable-sized fields in the data dictionary; and  
storing information common to all records in the fixed-sized fields and the variable sized fields in the data dictionary.
3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a field values value.
4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a field offsets offset.

5. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 1, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a pointers pointer into ~~the~~ a data dictionary.

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data in the fixed-sized fields as defined in~~ of claim 3, further comprising:

storing a value of the at least one of the fixed-sized ~~field~~ fields in an additional variable-sized field;

coding the value of the ~~fix-sized-field~~ at least one of the fixed-sized fields as ~~[[of]]~~ a field offset ~~[[by]]~~ pointing ~~the field offset~~ to the additional variable-sized field.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data in the variable-sized fields as defined in~~ of claim 3, further comprising:

storing frequently occurring long values of the fields in ~~the~~ a data dictionary;  
coding a value of one of the variable-sized ~~field~~ fields as ~~of the~~ a field offset ~~by~~ pointing ~~the field offset into~~ to one of the frequently occurring long values of the fields in the data dictionary, ~~wherein the value of the variable-sized field is a redundant value.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data in the variable-sized fields as defined in~~ of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, further comprising:

coding a value of one of the variable-sized ~~field~~ fields ~~as of the field offset by~~  
encoding ~~the~~ a field offset into ~~a record~~ one of the offset slots, ~~wherein the value of the variable-sized field is a non-redundant value.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data in the variable-sized fields as defined in~~ of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 5, further comprising:

storing frequently occurring long values of the fields in a second data dictionary,  
wherein the second data dictionary is larger than the data dictionary; and

coding a value of one of the variable-sized ~~field~~ fields as ~~of the a~~ a field value [[by]]  
pointing ~~the field value~~ into the second data dictionary, ~~wherein the field offset is not large~~  
~~enough for the second data dictionary.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A method for improving compression of data, comprising:

arranging the data on a mixed format layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a  
plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of  
a first size and the offset slots being of a second size, wherein the data comprises [[of]] a  
group of correlated fields;

dividing the data on [[a]] the mixed format physical layout into the fixed-sized fields  
and the variable-sized fields; and

compressing the data of the variable-sized fields and the fixed-sized fields.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 10, further comprising:

storing sizes of the fixed-sized fields in a data dictionary;

storing frequency of the data in the fixed-sized fields and the variable-sized fields in  
the data dictionary;

storing information common to all records in the fixed-sized fields and the variable  
sized fields in the data dictionary.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 10, wherein at least one of the  
~~fix-sized~~ fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a field values value.

13. The method defined in claim 10, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields  
~~comprise of~~ comprises a field offsets ~~offset~~.
14. The method defined in claim 10, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields  
~~comprise of~~ comprises a pointers ~~pointer~~ into the a data dictionary.
15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data as defined in~~ of claim 12,  
further comprising:  
storing frequently occurring values for the group of correlated fields in ~~[[the]]~~ a data  
dictionary; and  
coding a frequently occurring value for the group by pointing ~~[[the]]~~ a field offset,  
belonging to the group, to the data dictionary.
16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for compressing the data as defined in~~ of claim  
~~[15]]~~ 12, further comprising:  
coding an infrequently occurring value for the group, ~~wherein the~~ by pointing a field  
offset, belonging to the group, ~~points to the record in the field~~ a field in a record.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method for retrieving ~~[[a]]~~ compressed data,  
comprising:  
receiving a request for decompressing ~~a-requested~~ the compressed data;  
receiving the compressed data on a mixed format physical layout responsive to the  
request, wherein the mixed format physical layout comprises ~~of fixed fields and variable~~  
~~fields~~ a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of  
offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second  
size;  
searching for a value in the ~~fixed~~ fixed-sized fields;

retrieving the value in the ~~fixed~~ fixed-sized fields corresponding to the ~~requested~~  
received compressed data.

18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~defined in~~ of claim 17, wherein the retrieving step further comprises:

retrieving a dictionary entry if the value ~~[[of]]~~ in the ~~fixed~~ fixed-sized fields ~~field~~  
comprises ~~[[of]]~~ a dictionary pointer;

retrieving a value starting from a field offset if the value of the ~~fixed-field~~ fixed-sized  
fields comprises ~~of the~~ a field offset; and

retrieving a same field from ~~that a~~ record, if the value of the ~~fixed-field~~ fixed-sized  
fields comprises ~~[[of]]~~ a record offset.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for improving compression of data, comprising:  
means for arranging the data on a mixed format physical layout having a plurality of  
fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-  
sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size;

means for dividing the data on ~~[[a]]~~ the mixed format physical layout into the fixed-  
sized fields and the variable sized fields; and

means for compressing the data of the variable sized fields and the fixed-sized fields.

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for retrieving ~~[[a]]~~ compressed data, comprising:

means for receiving a request for decompressing ~~a-requested~~ the compressed data;

means for receiving the compressed data on a mixed format physical layout responsive  
to the request, wherein the mixed format physical layout comprises ~~of fixed-fields and~~  
~~variable-fields~~ a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a

plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size;

searching for a value in the fixed fields;

means for retrieving the value in the fixed fields corresponding to the ~~requested~~  
received compressed data.

21. (Currently Amended) A compressible computer medium, comprising a plurality of instructions to cause a computer to perform the steps of:

arranging [[the]] data on a mixed format physical layout having a plurality of fixed-sized fields, a plurality of variable-sized fields and a plurality of offset slots, the fixed-sized fields being of a first size and the offset slots being of a second size;

dividing the data on a mixed format physical layout into the fixed-sized fields and the variable sized fields; and

compressing the data of the variable sized fields and the fixed-sized fields.

22. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium according to claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

storing sizes of the fixed-sized fields in a data dictionary;

storing frequency of the data in the fixed-sized fields and the variable-sized fields in the data dictionary;

storing information common to all records in the fixed-sized fields and the variable sized fields in the data dictionary.

23. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium of claim 21, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a field values value.

24. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium of claim 21, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of~~ comprises a field offset ~~offset~~.

25. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium of claim 22, wherein at least one of the fixed-sized fields ~~comprise of pointers~~ comprises a pointer into the data dictionary.

26. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium according to claim 23, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

storing a value of the at least one of the fixed-sized field fields in an additional variable-sized field;

coding the value of the at least one of the fixed-sized field fields as ~~[[of]]~~ a field offset ~~[[by]]~~ pointing ~~the field offset~~ to the additional variable-sized field.

27. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium according to claim ~~[[23]]~~ 22, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

storing frequently occurring long values of the fields in the data dictionary;  
coding a value of one of the variable-sized field fields as ~~of the~~ a field offset ~~[[by]]~~ pointing ~~the field offset~~ into the data dictionary, ~~wherein the value of the variable-sized field is a redundant value.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium according to claim 25, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

coding a value of one of the variable-sized field fields ~~as of the field offset~~ by encoding ~~[[the]]~~ a field offset into a record, ~~wherein the value of the variable-sized field is a non-redundant value.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The compressible computer medium according to claim [[23]]

22, wherein the instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

storing frequently occurring long values of the fields in a second data dictionary,  
wherein the second data dictionary is larger than the data dictionary;

coding a value of one of the variable-sized ~~field~~ fields as ~~of the~~ a field value [[by]]  
pointing ~~the field value~~ into the second data dictionary, ~~wherein the field offset is not large~~  
~~enough for the second data dictionary.~~